

Message Text

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 5682

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: MY CALL ON GROMYKO: DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS

1. DURING MY CALL ON SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO ON APRIL 12 ON ANOTHER MATTER (SEPTTEL) I MENTIONED SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AGREEMENT ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNE') I MENTIONED THE FAVORABLE COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT THOSE OF US WHO WERE INVOLVED ALSO FELT THAT THIS WAS A USEFUL STEP FORWARD. GROMYKO REPLIED THAT "WE ARE VERY SATISFIED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT." THIS IS A GOOD STEP FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND FOR THE GENERAL STATE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HE CONTINUED.

2. HE THEN ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSALS TO BAN NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (NWMD) WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT. THESE PROPOSALS, HE SAID, SEEMED TO BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN THE CEILING AND THE FLOOR AND HE MENTIONED HAVING SENT US A NOTE ON THE SUBJECT. O REPLIED THAT OUR ANSWERING NOTE HAD POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED FOR TALKS YET AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER WORD SINCE THAT TIME. GROMYKO SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE PNE AGREEMENT WE SHOULD MOVE FORWARD ON OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS THENWMD. I REPLIED THAT PERHAPS SUCH TALKS COULD BE HELD IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CCD IN GENEVA, AT WHICH KORNIYENKO INTERJECTED THAT THE US HAD NOT SENT ITS EXPERTS ON THIS SUBJECT TO GENEVA. I SAID THAT WE WOULD ASK ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

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3. GROMYKO THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN

AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT THE MEANS TO REACH SUCH AN AGREEMENT EXISTS TECHNICALLY. BOTH SIDES, HE SAID, SHOULD WORK TOWARD IT. ALTHOUGH SOME COUNTRIES WILL NOT PARTICIPATE (HE MENTIONED CHINA, FRANCE, "AND PERHAPS OTHERS"), IT WOULD STILL BE BENEFICIAL IF THE TWO MAIN NUCLEAR POWERS COULD AGREE TO END ALL TESTS. WITHOUT IT THERE IS NO EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW. SUCH AN ACCORD WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM AND WOULD ENCOUR- AGE OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT. I SAID THAT WE VIEWED THE TTB AND THE PNE AGREEMENTS AS USEFUL STEPS AND THAT BOTH NEEDED TO BE COMPLETED BEFOR E WE COULD TALK CONCRETELY ABOUT FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON WEAPONS TESTS OR DISCUSSION OF MULTILATERAL APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENTS. I STRESSED THAT WE WERE STILL NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THE INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION PROCEDURES IN CONNECTION WITH A CTB AND THAT THIS REMAINED AN AREA WHERE WETHOUGHT FURTHER STEPS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

4. GROMYKO SAID THAT THE UN IS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS AND VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS AND VARIOUS ORGANS THROUGH WHICH TO PROMOTE DISARMAMENT TALKS. GROMYKO MENTIONED SYG WALDHEIM'S PROPOSALS CONCERNING PERSONNEL FOR THESE UN BODIES , "BUT THE US DOES NOT SEND ANY REPRESENTATIVES" AND DOES NOT QM ID GROMYKO, THE US DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERTS, OR ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE EXPERTS.

5. THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO OTHER MATTERS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. STOESEL

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